

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 AID-05 /085 W

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R 061410Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5456

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 100

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BEIRUT PLEASE PASS USINT BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

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SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY YEMENI CENSUS RESULTS

1.DURING MAY 6 CELEBRATION YARG ANNOUNCED OFFICIAL "PRELIMINARY" RESULTS OF ITS FEBRUARY 1975 CENSUS, DESCRIBED BY YEMENI OFFICIALS AS "THE FIRST DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC SURVEY OF HUMAN RESOURCES OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC". ACCORDING TO THESE RESULTS (FULL REPORT WILL BE POUCHED), POPULATION WITHIN YEMEN IS 5,237,893; AN ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED 1,234,000 LIVE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY (PRIMARILY IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE GULF STATES, SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA AND DJIBOUTI) BRINGING THE GRAND TOTAL TO 6,471,893. THE POPULATION OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL CITIES IS AS FOLLOWS: SANAA 134,588; HODEIDAH 80,314; TAIZ 78,642.

2. COMMENT: THESE FIGURES APPEAR TO BE REASONABLY ACCURATE. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE YARG HAS OBVIOUSLY GONE TO GREAT PAINS TO GIVE FIGURES FOR THE "ACTUAL RECORDED" POPULATION (4,519,593) AS WELL AS ESTIMATED FIGURES FOR POPULATION IN "UNCOVERED AREAS" (294,500) AND FOR "UNDER-ENUMERATED" POPULATION (423,800) WHICH INCLUDES PRIMARILY WOMEN WHOSE MALE KINFOLK FOR RELIGIOUS OR OTHER REASONS REFUSED TO LIST THEM. DR ABD AL-KARIM AL-IRYANI, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND HEAD OF THE CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION WHO HEADED THE CENSUS OPERATION, RECENTLY INFORMED ME THAT THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION WITHIN THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT ABOUT PUBLICIZING THE ABOVE RESULTS GIVEN THE FACT THAT THEY DID NOW SHOW THE LARGE INFLATED FIGURES FOR WHICH SOME WERE HOPING. IT WAS DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO PROCEED PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ACCORDING TO DR IRYANI NEITHER SAUDI ARABIA NOR PDRY PUBLISHED THEIR RESULTS BECAUSE THEY FELL FAR SHORT OF WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED. DR IRYANI ADDED THAT YEMEN HAS "NOTHING TO HIDE" ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH FACED YARG IN CARRYING OUT ITS FIRST "MODERN" CENSUS. DR IRYANI POINTED OUT THAT EVEN WITH THESE LOWER FIGURES YEMEN REMAINS THE MOST POPULATED COUNTRY ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. SCOTES

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